

lecturer instanced some of their different localities, and described the destruction of their house in Clerkenwell by the rebels of Kent and Essex.

A notice of the house re-established by Prior Dowers, and of its final suppression and destruction in the reign of Henry VIII., closed the warlike and religious history of the house of St. John, in Clerkenwell. And, finally, the lecturer submitted in behalf of the gate, a relic of that house, an additional plea, on account of its having been the birth-place of the "Gentleman's Magazine," and the scene of the early literary career of Doctor Samuel Johnson.

According to the committee, the following restorations have already been effected, viz.—"the interior has been renovated, the turrets partly rebuilt, the old stone casing has been tapped and tested, and new stones inserted where wanted, the roof lowered several feet, &c., these have been done by the owners; the public have cased with stone the turrets, restored with solid stone the whole of the embattlements on the north front, and the central portion of the south front, as formerly, and substituted new solid stone window-heads, jambs and sills to the turret windows in the north front, in place of those decayed, &c."

We should mention, that the tables were filled with objects of art, exhibited by Lord Cadogan, Lord Hastings, the Earl of Harrington, and others; and that the evening was equally pleasant and instructive.

#### THE GAS MOVEMENT IN THE METROPOLIS.

THE public are indebted to the parish of St. James, Westminster, for commencing a movement as to improvements to the mode of lighting the street lamps by gas.

A great improvement having been made by Mr. Leslie, of Conduit-street, Hanover-square, in the sanitary and economical combustion of gas, a deputation of the parochial authorities of St. James's were led, a short time since, to inquire into it; and being satisfied with the experiments they witnessed, they obtained an interview with the directors of the Chartered Gas Company, on the subject of its introduction into the parish lamps, whereby the parish would, as the deputation believed, receive for the same amount of money under the existing contract with the Chartered Gas Company, a great increase of light, or, on the other hand, the same amount of light for a considerable reduction in price. The directors agreed to have a room fitted up for the purpose of testing the experiments, and further, obtained expressly two of the best experimental meters, and a new photometer from Liverpool, that all might be accurate.

On the 27th ult., a meeting took place, at which many of the directors and officers of the Company were present, as well as a large number of the Commissioners for Paving and Lighting St. James's parish, and the inventor attended.

The two meters were then adjusted to work accurately together; the photometer arranged by Messrs. Lowe and Upward, officers of the Gas Company, the two manipulators on the occasion, and the standard parliamentary candle was made to burn well. A bat-wing burner was made to consume 5 cubic feet per hour, the same quantity of gas was passed through Mr. Leslie's, and the result, the mean of two experiments, gave within a fraction of one hundred per cent. light in favour of the new arrangement. The engineer of the Gas Company then suggested that it would be better to put out the candle, to re-adjust the photometer, place the bat-wing burner on a third meter at the opposite end of the room (which meter was not one of the two ordered for the occasion, and had not been tested in the presence of the company assembled). The result of this new arrangement was, that 4 feet of gas through the new burner gave as much light as 5 feet through the bat-wing.

It appears, that subsequently to this meeting the Chartered Gas Directors have required from St. James's parish ten shillings additional charge for each of twenty lights proposed to be put up in the parish as a further experiment, and that the parish shall pay for the new burners. On what ground the additional charge is made after these experiments, conducted by the Gas Company's officers at their own works, through

their own arrangements, is not very clear. The results involve, if not controverted, an enormous saving of gas per annum upon the whole lighting of the parish, which certainly should not be pocketed by the Gas Company. Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods have ordered the Queen's Walk, in the Green-park, to be forthwith lighted by the Chartered Gas Company with the new burners, so that the public will very shortly be enabled to judge of this invention.

#### NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

TWO contracts for the Lincoln Corn Exchange have been taken by Messrs. Kirk and Parry, of Seaforth.—In St. Mary's Church, Bury, the carved peacocking round the communion-table, and the Desceigne, &c., in illuminated characters, have been completed. Rails are also to be put up, and there is some idea of removing the door which opened in the ancient vestry. The little tablet to the memory of the Queen of France (Mary Tudor) has been removed to make way for the panels. "If this sorry memento of her royal ancestor," says our authority, "could be brought under the eye of our gracious Queen, or that of the present representative of Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, to whom the royal blood was allied by this personage, we cannot but think that a more worthy memorial would be placed in one of the windows."—Spartan Church, Northamptonshire, has been re-opened. The entire expense of the restoration is about 1,800*l.*, of which 1,360*l.* have been raised by voluntary contributions, and 550*l.* are guaranteed by a rate.—The earthly tenements inhabited by our great poets of old appear to be on the move, and after the other, Milton's house and property, near Horton, Bucks, was going, going, the other day, but one having offered more than 7,000*l.* for it, it has not yet gone.—The church of St. Stephen, Astley, Leigh, was re-opened on Sunday week; its enlargement, with the addition of an organ, having been effected.—A new school-house for 250 children is about to be erected, in conformity with the provisions of the late Education Act, near the Cwmnach collieries, Aberdare, no land given by Mr. Bruce Pryce. It is said that Mr. Crawshaw Bailey also intends building a school at Aberaman; and that the Hon. Robert H. Clive, M.P., has given land for the same desirable object at Heol-y-relin. A new British school, for 400 children of dissenters, is to be opened this month at Pontypool; cost about 600*l.*—On Monday week a testimonial was presented to Mrs. Catharine Wilkinson, the originator of public wash-houses, and at present matron of the Corporation Baths and Washhouses, in Upper Frederick-street, Liverpool.—The foundation-stone of the proposed new church at Manthorpe, near Grantham, was laid on the 28th ult.; architect, Mr. G. Place, of Nottingham. It will consist of a nave and chancel, with an intermediate tower, a south porch, and a small vestry, at the south-eastern extremity of the chancel. The style of architecture adopted is that which prevailed in the earlier part of the second period of church architecture. The cost is to be defrayed by the Hon. and Rev. Richard Cust, rector of Belton, and rural dean. The site is given by the Earl of Brownlow, who has also, with his accustomed munificence, undertaken to build a parsonage after a plan by the same architect, and to supply an endowment. The workmen were entertained in the evening at Belton.—It is proposed to build a new church in the parish of Radpole, Weymouth, to contain one thousand persons on the ground floor. The designs of Messrs. Lee and Bury have been chosen, and builders are now estimating the works. The plan intended to be adopted is cruciform, with a tower and spire (together 150 feet high), at the north-west angle; the style is the decorated.—On Tuesday week, the western portion of the new pier at the ferry-boat dock, at Hull, was formally opened by the mayor and aldermen. The cost of this pier, when completed, is estimated at about 10,000*l.*, but we understand, says the *Hull Packet*, that additional improvements have lately been suggested, which, if carried into effect, will make the expense somewhat more.—The number of persons employed on the Irish relief works during the week ending 22nd ult. was 173,570, and the cost 63,949*l.* In the week ending 29th

ult. the number was 145,690, and the cost 43,811*l.* In the week ending 5th instant the number was 118,637, and the cost 49,376*l.*—A circular has been issued to the engineers in charge of the several districts in which public works have been hitherto carried on, announcing that the Lords of the Treasury have given instructions that all the works, whether they consist of roads, bridges, thorough drainage, &c., shall be finally discontinued on or before the 15th of August. Wherever it may be found impossible to complete the works before the specified time, plans and estimates are to be prepared for the county surveyors, so as to obtain presentments in the ordinary way for the execution of such unfinished works from the grand juries of the counties in which they may be situated.—A correspondent of the *Morning Post* states that Limerick County is in a horrid state of murderous turbulence.

#### PROJECTED PUBLIC HALL AND EXCHANGE IN SHEFFIELD.

SOME time ago we mentioned that a public building of considerable extent, to include a Great Hall, Exchange, and Museum, was projected for Sheffield, and that a design for it had been made by Messrs. Flockton, Lee, and Flockton. In order to make our readers acquainted with the sort of building with which it was proposed to adorn a very important town, and to aid in bringing the project to maturity, we caused a perspective view of the design to be engraved, but have been prevented until now, by want of space, from making use of it.

The site is a plot of ground bounded on the north by Bank-street, on the south by the Hartshead, on the east by Meeting-house-lane, and on the west by Figtree-lane. Its area comprises nearly 3,000 square yards, in an oblong square, measuring nearly 40 yards by 40. It possesses three advantages—1st. It is central, and easy of approach in every direction; 2nd. It is suitable in form, so that no ground would be sacrificed but what is necessary to leave the street of proper width all round it; 3rd. It is on a steep hill-side. The descent is about 30 feet from the Hartshead to Bank-street, thus affording the advantage of a story on the Bank-street level, and another on the level of the Hartshead, making in effect two ground floors; 4th. A lofty building upon this site will be a conspicuous and imposing object from the north side of the town, for, as none of the buildings in front will be so high as the basement story, the whole of the upper part will be visible. There are to be two frontages—one to Bank-street, and the other to the Hartshead.

It is proposed to make the Bank-street entrance into a large hall for public meetings. This hall is to be 35 feet high, and measure about 157 feet by 86, giving an area of 13,500 superficial yards; thus affording standing room for 9,000, or sitting room for 3,000 persons. This hall to occupy the whole base of the building, excepting a space at the southern end, for cellars, warming apparatus, &c. Over these cellars will be rooms for the occupation of the persons in charge of the building and other purposes, with an entrance to the gallery or orchestra of the large hall.

The next floor will be only a few steps above the Hartshead level, though 40 feet above the Bank-street level. The doors at this end are to open into an entrance-hall 32 feet by 34, and 28 feet high, with a bankruptcy court on one side 30 feet by 44, and a council room on the other side of the same size, both of the same height as the entrance hall. To each of these rooms private apartments for the mayor and the bankruptcy commissioner are annexed. The entrance hall to open into an Exchange, covered by a glass dome 215 feet diameter 84 feet by 36, and its height 50 feet. The floor of the Exchange to be partially of ground glass, so as to give light in the great hall below. On each side of the Exchange, a range of ten rooms, applicable for offices or committee-rooms, averaging about 20 feet by 24, and 17 feet high. Across the north end of the building is placed the banquetting room, 94 feet by 43, and 33 feet high. The next story furnishes two side rooms 100 feet by 24, but its height at the south end is occupied by the entrance hall, bankruptcy court, and council hall, and at the north end by the dining hall.

In reply to those who were startled by the